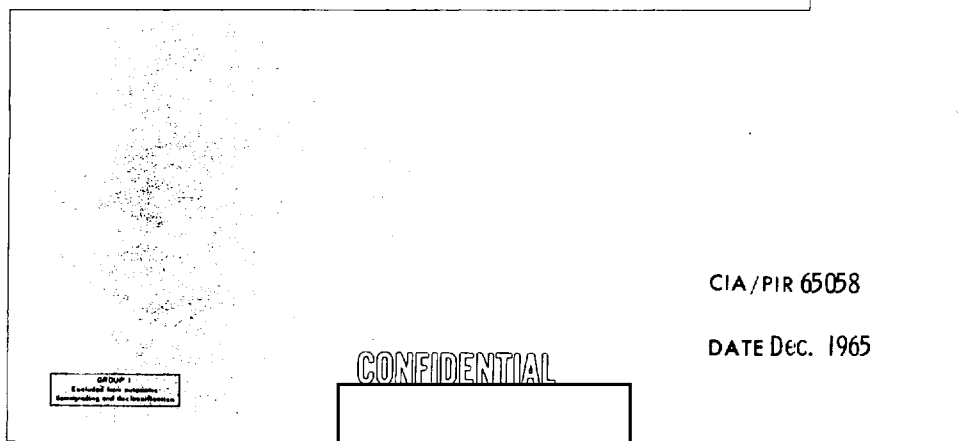


IMAGERY
ANALYSIS
DIVISION

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTHERN LAOS



CIA/PIR 65058

DATE Dec. 1965

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTHERN LAOS

1. This report is a study of selected road and trail construction activity in Southern Laos in an area bounded by Route 12 to the north, Route 9 to the south, Route 23 to the west and the Laos-North Vietnam-South Vietnam border area (including a portion of the Demilitarized Zone to the east).

2. The results of this study are depicted on the enclosed annotated map and described as follows:

a. Status of Route 12 and evidence of road repair work at Mu Gia Pass.

Route 12 at Mu Gia Pass has been alternately closed to vehicular traffic by bombing and reopened by repairs to the road. Whereas

[redacted] revealed that several bomb craters in the road had been bypassed and fresh track activity indicated that the road was serviceable and being used by vehicles,

[redacted] revealed that the road was heavily bombed and unserviceable to vehicular traffic.

b. Construction of a new road from the vicinity of UTM WE 8355 in North Vietnam to Ban Xonne (UTM WE 881459).

Due to the lack of recent interpretable aerial photography, it is impossible to either confirm or deny the existence of a road along this alignment. Recent aerial photography to the south of Ban Xonne, however, reveals no possible southern extension of such a road that could lead either east to the Laos-North Vietnam border or to the south and west to Laotian Routes 23 and 911.

c. Status of construction of Route 911.

Route 911 is a new road running in a north-south direction from UTM WE 765180 to UTM XD 150600 connecting Routes 23 and 91. This route is part of a new connecting link between Route 9 and Mu Gia Pass. It is a single lane, natural surface road in the very late stages of construction, with intermittent sections of gravel and corduroy surfacing. Several small streams are spanned by short timber bridges. Although vehicle tracks were observed at several places along the road, the route does not appear to be heavily traveled as of the date of the photography. A three nautical mile segment of this route (from UTM WE 885022 to UTM WD 912970) is not covered by recent aerial photography.

d. Evidence of road construction to connect Route 911 with Route 9 at Ban Nabo or toward Route 92.

Route 91 is a connecting road between the southern terminus of Route 911 (UTM XD 150600) and Route 9 at Ban Nabo (UTM XD 245487). This

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section of Route 91 is in the late stages of construction and is a single lane, natural surface road with intermittent sections of gravel and corduroy surfacing. An unidentified, camouflaged piece of construction equipment with a dozer blade was seen in use at UTM XD 167583. Vehicle parking areas were observed at UTM XD 220514 and UTM XD 240494. Vehicle tracks were observed in the parking areas and in places along the road. The remaining section Route 91 from the junction with Route 911 (UTM XD 150600) west to the Junction with Route 23 (UTM WD 899701) is an improved trail.

- e. Evidence of newly constructed trails and bridges leading from the southern terminus of Route 103, North Vietnam to Route 9 in the vicinity of Sepone, Laos.

A new trail extends from the southern terminus of Route 103 (UTM XD 753890) in a southwesterly direction through the Demilitarized Zone to UTM XD 695723. Because of heavy tree canopy, the alignment of this portion of the trail is general and no detailed description is possible. From UTM XD 695723 the trail continues to the northern end of Route 92 at UTM XD 655680 (the North Vietnam-Laos border). Ten small timber bridges measuring [] wide and numerous personnel were observed. This new trail connects with an improved trail at UTM XD 655680 which follows the Route 92 alignment westward along the north bank of the Se Bang Hieng River and then south to junction with Route 9 at UTM XD 322460. Numerous foot bridges were observed along this segment of the trail. There is also an improved trail starting at the junction of Route 92 and the previously described new trail extending from Route 103 at UTM XD 655680 which extends eastward through the Demilitarized Zone along the Rao Thanh River Valley to North Vietnam Route 102 at XD 980730 and further eastward to join several secondary roads in North Vietnam.

- f. Evidence of construction of any additional access roads inter-connecting Routes 12, 23 and 92 from Mu Gia Pass south to Route 9.

There is no evidence of construction of any additional access roads branching from or inter-connecting Routes 12, 23, and 92 in the area from Mu Gia Pass south to Route 9 in areas covered by recent interpretable aerial photography (see annotated map). However there is an improved, well traveled foot trail connecting Routes 91 and 92 from UTM XD 175585 east along the Nam Khang and Houei Thon Rivers to UTM XD 365568.

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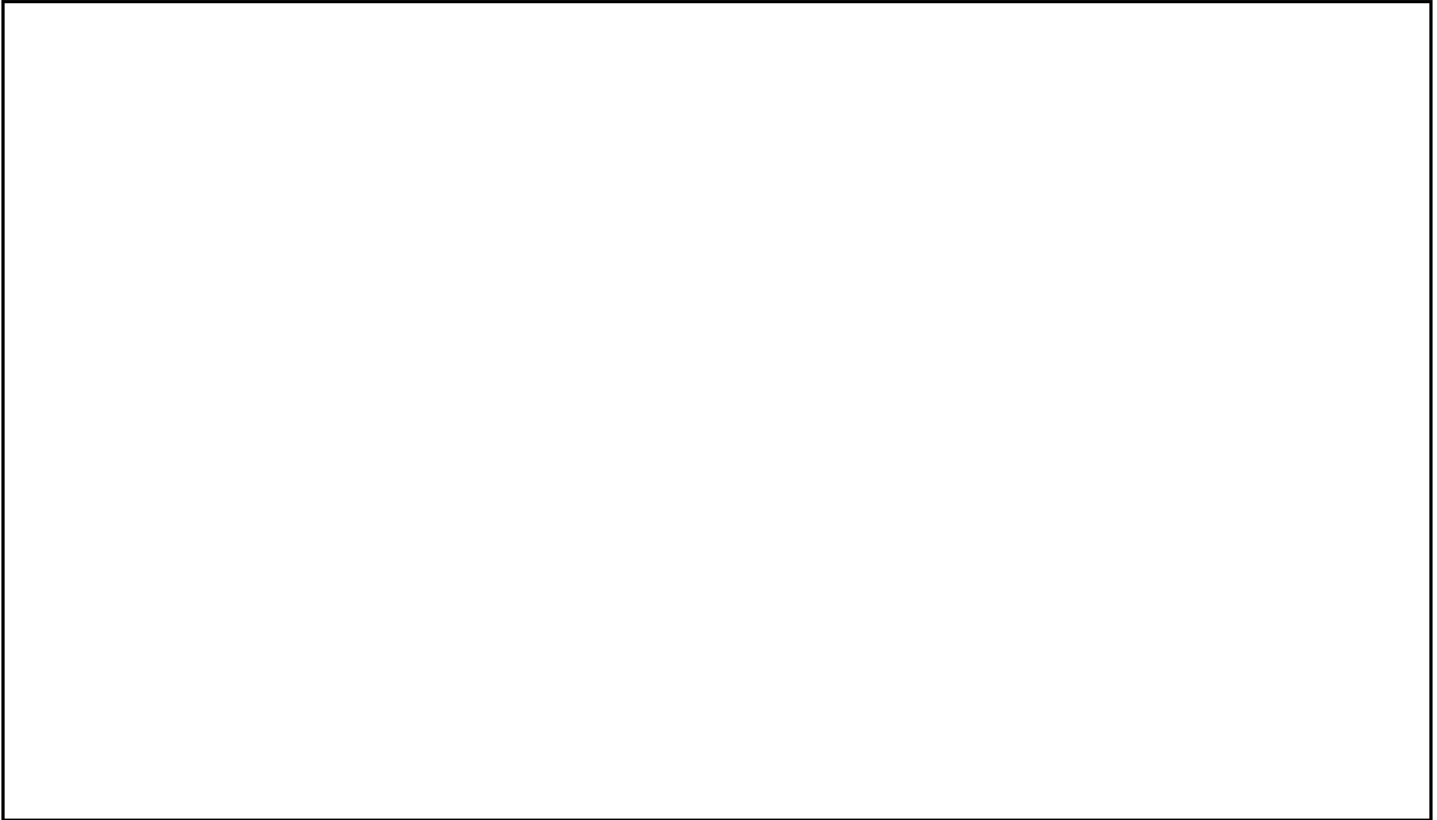
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REFERENCES

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MAPS

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CIA. C-RR5-83,075

CIA/IAD PROJECT

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